

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00418 251631Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 INR-07 SP-02 /036 W  
-----251642Z 039167 /40

R 251605Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 418

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

AF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, US, NG  
SUBJ: US-NIGER BILATERAL TALKS

REF: NIAMEY 402

1. I BELIEVE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE ANNUAL US-NIGER BILATERAL TALKS, A CONSULTATION AND PLANNING EXERCISE TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER ATTACHES INCREASING IMPORTANCE. WE HAVE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BEEN WORKING ON THE SCHEDULING FOR THE 1977 TALKS WITH THE VIEW TO HOLDING THEM IN NIAMEY IN EARLY FEBRUARY. ALTHOUGH THIS TIME FRAME WAS LESS THAN IDEAL GIVEN THE TRANSITION IN WASHINGTON, WE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO GO AHEAD, KNOWING OF THE AVAILABILITY OF DAVE SHEAR TO SERVE AS HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION AND HIS PLANNED PRESENCE IN AFRICA AT ABOUT THAT TIME.

2. THE NIGERIENS, FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN, HAVE NOW SUGGESTED A DELAY IN THE TALKS (NIAMEY 402). FOREMOST IN THEIR MINDS IS THEIR WISH THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE AS WELL AS MINISTER OF PLAN ANNOU PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH US--AN INDICATION OF THE SIGNIFI-  
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CANCE OF THE TALKS FROM THE GON'S POINT OF VIEW. I ALSO BELIEVE THE GON IS SIGNALLING ITS DESIRE THAT THIS EXERCISE BE SEEN NOT ONLY AS AN AID REVIEW BUT A POLITICAL EXCHANGE AND AS A SYMBOL OF THE IMPORTANCE OF US-NIGER RELATIONS. WE THEREFORE HAVE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NIGER AND ITS MODERATE LEADERSHIP WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD WELCOME HIGHER LEVEL POLITICAL

CONTACTS WITH THE US. US CONSULTATIONS, BRIEFINGS, AND VISITS TO OTHER WEST AFRICAN STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED HERE.

3. SPECIFICALLY, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU, ONE OF YOUR DEPUTIES, OR THE NEW ASSISTANT ADUNISTRATOR FOR AFRICA, COULD VISIT HERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN THE TEXT OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GON. IF THIS WERE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO EMPHASIZE THE KEY IMPORTANCE OF THE SAHEL IN OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, BEARING IN MIND THAT NIGER IS THE MAJOR RECIPIENT IN MOST OF THEM, BUT ALSO TO MAKE A POCTICAL GESTURE TO KOUNTCHE AND THE GON.

4. OF COURSE, I DO NOT KNOW HOW THIS PROPOSAL WOULD FIT INTO YOUR SCHEDULE OR THOSE OF OTHER SENIORS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A MISSION. IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR PARTI-CIPATION FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OR BY THE YET-TO-BE-NAMED ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW IN A PRELIMINARY WAY SOON SO THAT WE CAN MAKE SURE THE SCHEDULE FOR THE BILATERALS IS ARRANGED ACCORDINGLY. JAMES

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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